software includes, but is not limited to, device drivers, operating systems and user applications. Preferably, such computer readable media further include software for performing the methods described above.

In certain other embodiments, a program for performing an exemplary method of the invention or an aspect thereof is situated on a carrier wave such as an electronic signal transferred over a data network. Suitable networks include the internet, a frame relay network, an ATM network, a wide area network (WAN), or a local area network (LAN). Those skilled in the art will recognize that merely transferring the program over the network, rather than executing the program on a computer system or other device, does not avoid the scope of the invention.

It should be emphasized that the above-described embodiments of the invention are merely possible examples of implementations set forth for a clear understanding of the principles of the invention. Variations and modifications may be made to the above-described embodiments of the invention without departing from the spirit and principles of the invention. All such modifications and variations are intended to be included herein within the scope of the invention and protected by the following claims.

What is claimed:

1. A method comprising:

storing a plurality of reference documents in a memory device, including storing reference data for each reference document of the plurality of reference documents, wherein the reference data comprises data representing human-readable content from an associated reference document of the plurality of reference documents;

receiving over a wireless connection, document data at a data processing system from a handheld device, wherein the document data corresponds to content of one of the reference documents of the plurality of reference documents, and wherein the document data comprises data captured from human-readable content in a document when scanned by the handheld device, wherein the human-readable content comprises originally published content of the document;

extracting at least a portion of the received document data as scanning data, wherein the scanning data comprises data representing human-readable content from the document;

retrieving from the memory device the reference data for at least one reference document of the plurality of reference documents;

comparing the scanning data with the retrieved reference data, wherein comparing comprises a comparison of (a) the scanning data corresponding to the human-readable content of the document, and (b) the retrieved reference data for the at least one reference document of the plurality of reference documents comprising human-readable content of the at least one reference document as originally published; and

identifying, when the step of comparing the scanning data with the retrieved reference data indicates the scanning data matches at least a portion of the retrieved reference data, one or more reference documents associated with said matched reference data as the reference documents corresponding to the document data received from the handheld device.

2. The method of claim **1**, further comprising sending at least a portion of the identified reference documents to the handheld device.

3. The method of claim **2**, wherein at least one of the steps of receiving, retrieving, comparing and identifying are performed by a data processing system of a server connected to the handheld device by a wireless network connection.

4. The method of claim **3**, further comprising presenting the matching documents via the handheld device on a user interface capable of receiving user input identifying one of the two or more reference documents of the plurality of reference documents that are identified as the one reference document as the document scanned by the handheld device.

5. The method of claim **3**, further wherein the scanning data does not correspond to non-human-readable information captured from the document that identifies the document and was added to the document after it was originally published.

6. The method of claim **2**, further comprising sending at least a portion of human-readable content from each of a plurality of matching documents of the plurality of reference documents to the handheld device, wherein the matching documents comprise two or more reference documents of the plurality of reference documents that are identified as the one reference document as the document scanned by the handheld device.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the document data is received from the handled device over a wireless data connection.

8. The method of claim **1**, wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital text data.

9. The method of claim **8**, wherein the digital text data is derived from any one of a text data and a graphical data.

10. The method of claim **1**, further comprising sending at least a portion of the identified document to a the receiving address.

11. The method of claim **10**, wherein the receiving address information identifies the receiving address of the handheld device.

12. The method of claim **11**, wherein sending at least a portion of the identified document includes:

sending at least a portion of the identified document to the receiving address via transmission over a data network coupling the handheld device to the data processing system.

13. The method of claim **1**, wherein a user operating the handheld devices is informed if no match is found between the document data received from the handheld device and the retrieved reference data.

14. A data processing system for identifying one of a plurality of reference documents, from information received from a handheld device in communication with a data processing system, the data processing system being coupled to a data network and each reference document having reference data, the data processing system comprising:

at least one memory device in which a plurality of instructions are stored; and

a processor coupled to the at least one memory device and capable of executing instructions in the memory device to one or more of said plurality of instructions to: (i) access said reference data in the at least one memory device, and (ii) receive the information from the handheld device, wherein the information comprises actual data scanned from a document by the handheld device, wherein execution of the instructions causing a plurality of steps to be performed including:

storing a plurality of reference documents, each reference document having associated reference data stored in the at least one memory device coupled to the data processing system, wherein the associated reference data for each reference document comprises